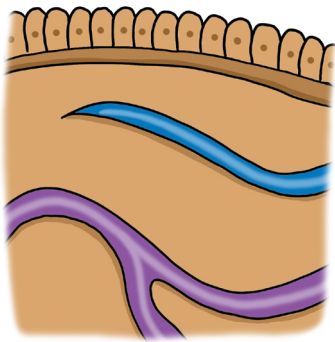




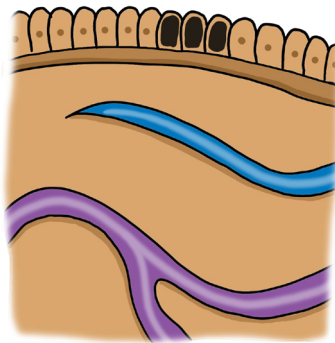
# What is cancer?

The body is made up of a big mob of cells. Healthy cells grow and split into 2. When these cells die new cells come along **this is healthy**.

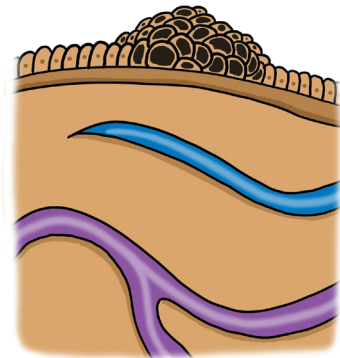
Sometimes something goes wrong with some cells and they don't die. They split and keep splitting and grow into a lump. This lump is also called a tumour, this is cancer.



Normal / healthy cells



Abnormal to bad cells



Abnormal cells multiply to tumour or cancer

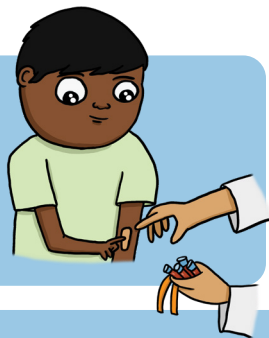
- Anyone can get cancer, it can happen to children and adults.
- Nobody really knows what causes most cancers.
- There are lots of different types of cancers.

## How do doctors know if bub has cancer?

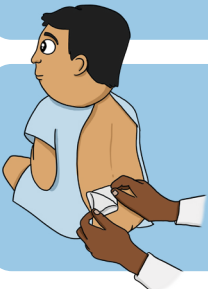
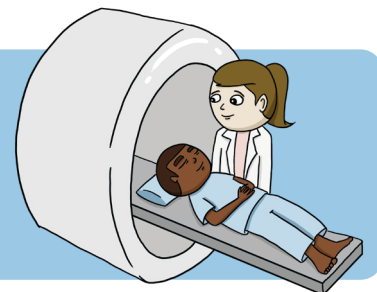
Different tests help the doctor find out if bub has cancer and the type of cancer it is.

### They may need:

Blood tests



Scans



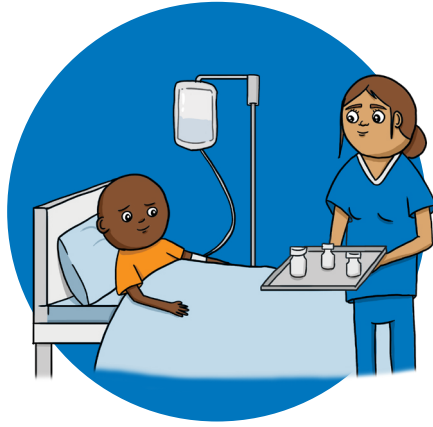
Sometimes the doctor will do a small procedure called a biopsy which takes out some of the cells from the tumour to see if they are healthy or not.

These tests help the oncologist or special cancer doctor decide the best treatment for bub.

## Cancer is treated in different ways.



Surgery to take out the cancer



Medications called chemotherapy or chemo



X-rays called radiotherapy

### Good to know

The doctors, nurses and the oncology team are there to yarn with you and answer any questions you have.

- Cancer doesn't always cause death.
- You can't catch cancer from anyone.
- Cancer is not a punishment, there is nothing bub or you did to cause cancer.
- Treatment doesn't always make people feel sick.
- Not everyone loses their hair.
- Bub needs their family at the hospital to help cuddle and comfort them. It can be scary and lonely for them when at the hospital away from home and family.



Government of Western Australia  
Child and Adolescent Health Service

**Child and Adolescent Health Service**  
15 Hospital Avenue, Nedlands, WA, 6009.  
Telephone: (08) 6456 2222  
Produced by: Oncology / Social Work  
Ref: 1411 © CAHS 2021

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

**Disclaimer:** This publication is for general education and information purposes. Contact a qualified healthcare professional for any medical advice needed.

© State of Western Australia, Child and Adolescent Health Service.